

What we claim is:

1. Method for humidifying a work space in a gas-fed incubator, wherein water in a heatable pan in a floor area of an inner container surrounding the work space is evaporated until a predetermined temperature is reached, wherein after opening of a door for access to the inner container, an open time until it is closed is detected and a period, during which the pan is heated, is determined depending on the open time of the inner container.

2. Method according to Claim 1, wherein the period only has a heating phase with a first running time if the open time is within a predetermined time interval and the period also contains a secondary heating phase with a second running time if the open time exceeds the time interval.

3. Method according to Claim 2, wherein during the heating phase with the first running time, the pan is heated at an intensity that is dependent on the time interval between two last openings of the work space.

4. Gas-fed incubator with a work space in an inner container that can be closed by means of a door with temperature control, wherein the inner container is surrounded by a heat-insulating outer housing, and in a floor area of the inner container there is a humidifier with at least one controllable heating element for an atmosphere of the inner container in the form of a pan holding a water bath, wherein the door for closing the inner container has a door switch that is electrically connected to an input of a control device that can control a power supply for the at least one controllable heating element.

5. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, wherein the at least one heating element is arranged in a region of the floor area outside of an interior of the inner container.

6. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, wherein the control device has at least one time element adapted to evaluate the time function of the door switch.

7. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, wherein the control device has at least one time element adapted to evaluate the time function of the door switch.

8. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, wherein there is an outer door for closing the outer housing and an inner door that tightly seals the inner container, and wherein the door switch is associated with the inner door.

9. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, wherein there is an outer door for closing the outer housing and an inner door that tightly seals the inner container, and wherein the door switch is associated with the inner door.

10. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 6, wherein there is an outer door for closing the outer housing and an inner door that tightly seals the inner container, and wherein the door switch is associated with the inner door.

11. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 7, wherein there is an outer door for closing the outer housing and an inner door that tightly seals the inner container, and wherein the door switch is associated with the inner door.

12. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, wherein the power supply for the at least one heating element of the humidifier can be controlled by means of the control device such that the at least one heating element can also be used for temperature control in the inner container.

13. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, wherein the power supply for the at least one heating element of the humidifier can be controlled by means of the control device such that the at least one heating element can also be used for temperature control in the inner container.

14. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 6, wherein the power supply for the at least one heating element of the humidifier can be controlled by means of the control device such that the at least one heating element can also be used for temperature control in the inner container.

15. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 8, wherein the power supply for the at least one heating element of the humidifier can be controlled by means of the control device such that the at least one heating element can also be used for temperature control in the inner container.

16. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, also comprising at least one additional heating element which is provided in a region of at least one of a side wall and a rear wall of the inner container for temperature control of the inner container.

17. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, also comprising at least one additional heating element which is provided in a region of at least one of a side wall and a rear wall of the inner container for temperature control of the inner container.

18. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 6, also comprising at least one additional heating element which is provided in a region of at least one of a side wall and a rear wall of the inner container for temperature control of the inner container.

19. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 8, also comprising at least one additional heating element which is provided in a region of at least one of a side wall and a rear wall of the inner container for temperature control of the inner container.

20. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 12, also comprising at least one additional heating element which is provided in a region of at least one of a side wall and a rear wall of the inner container for temperature control of the inner container.

21. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

22. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a

regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

23. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 6, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

24. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 8, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

25. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 12, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

26. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 16, comprising a digital computer wherein a function of the control device and a function of a regulator for control of an interior atmosphere of the inner container are programmed.

27. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 4, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

28. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 5, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

29. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 6, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

30. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 8, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

31. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 12, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

32. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 16, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.

33. Gas-fed incubator according to Claim 21, wherein the inner door is a heatable glass door.